



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
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MITT ROMNEY  
GOVERNOR

KERRY HEALEY  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

June 3, 2004

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

Pursuant to the provisions of Article II, Section 8, Paragraph 1, Clause (2) of the Amendments to the Constitution, as amended by Article LXXXIX, I am filing for your consideration the attached legislation entitled, "An Act to Restore Financial Stability in the City of Springfield."

The city of Springfield has a projected structural deficit for fiscal year 2005 exceeding twenty million dollars and without significant changes the city projects an even greater deficit in fiscal year 2006. Owing to its current financial straits, the city is unable to enact a balanced budget, a prerequisite to the mailing of its fiscal year 2005 property tax bills. Moreover, the city's credit has been downgraded to a sub-investment rating, possibly leaving it without reasonable access to credit markets. This worsening fiscal crisis poses an imminent danger to the safety of citizens of the city and their property.

With the goal of restoring financial health to the city, we are proposing the creation of a finance control board with broad authority to take charge of and oversee Springfield's financial operations.

Given the serious nature of Springfield's financial condition, I urge the House of Representatives and the Senate to enact this important legislation as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mitt Romney".

Mitt Romney  
Governor